

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 05431 291025Z

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AS-01 IO-13 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DHA-02 TRSE-00 /078 W

-----123387 291158Z /46

R 290833Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4825

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 5431

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MPOL, PINT, KS, US

SUBJECT: PROTESTANT CHURCHES PRESS CAMPAIGN TO INFLUENCE U.S.

PUBLIC TO MAINTAIN U.S. FORCES IN KOREA

1. U.S. DECISION TO WITHDRAW GROUND FORCES FROM KOREA HAS CAUSED CONCERN IN KOREAN PROTESTANT CIRCLES, AND CHURCHES, INCLUDING THOSE WHICH HAVE BEEN CRITICAL OF ROKG HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES, HAVE TAKEN ACTION TO MAKE KNOWN THEIR OPPOSITION TO WITHDRAWAL DECISION. DEPARTMENT ALREADY AWARE OF LETTERS TO U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FROM KNCC AND MORE CONSERVATIVE CHRISTIAN AD HOC POLICY PLANNING COMMITTEE ON THIS ISSUE. MANY CHRISTIAN LEADERS PERSONALLY CONVEYED THIS MESSAGE TO UNDERSECRETARY HABIB WHEN HE VISITED SEOUL IN MAY. KNCC UNDERLINED OPPOSITION TO U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWAL WHEN DR. RANDALL OF U.S. COUNCIL OF CHURCHES VISITED KOREA IN MAY AND ON OCCASION OF VISIT OF DR. PHILIP POTTER OF WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES THIS MONTH.

2. EMBASSY NOTES THAT A NUMBER OF CHURCHMEN HAVE VISITED THEIR CORELIGIONISTS IN THE U.S. TO PLEAD CASE FOR MAINTENANCE OF U.S. TROOP PRESENCE HERE. RECENTLY, EIGHT LEADING PRESBYTERIAN CHURCHMEN LEFT FOR U.S. TO ATTEND  
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SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN CONVENTION IN NASHVILLE AND UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CONVENTION IN PHILADELPHIA. THIS GROUP REPORTEDLY HOPES TO CALL ON U.S. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, NEW YORK TIMES AND WASHINGTON POST.

3. COMMENT: CHURCHES ARE REFLECTING DEEP FEELING OF CONCERN FELT BY CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY. PARTICIPATION IN EFFORTS BY

BROAD SPECTRUM OF CHURCHES, INCLUDING THOSE MOST CRITICAL  
OF ROKG HUMAN RIGHTS POLICIES, SHOWS ONCE MORE THAT NATIONAL  
SECURITY IS ONE ISSUE ON WHICH KOREANS DO UNITE.  
SNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROTESTANTS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, TROOP REDUCTIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** PROTESTANT CHURCHES PRESS CAMPAIGN TO INFLUENCE U.S. PUBLIC TO MAINTAIN U.S. FORCES IN KOREA  
**TAGS:** MPOL, PINT, KS, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009